

Director of Environmental Health Policy

AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)

Posted: Friday, February 27, 2009 at 11:46 AM EST

Internal Reference Code:

No internal code listed.

Job ID 1490

Job Posting:

AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative Goals

1. To promote progressive public policy in support of good health and reduced environmental toxicity.
2. To raise awareness about the connection between toxic chemicals and developmental disabilities.
3. To raise awareness that those living with developmental disabilities may be at greater risk for toxic exposure than those living without a disability.
4. To promote good health and reduce toxic exposures by collaborating for action with other environmental, health and disability organizations.

Position Overview

AAIDD seeks an experienced professional to advance the association's environmental health policy mission including comprehensive chemical policy reform. Working with a variety of diverse constituencies, the Policy Director will further the association's environmental health policy goals through advocacy and by educating others about the critical need to improve our environmental quality in communities, states, our nation and countries throughout the world.

Specific Goals

§ Establish, build and manage a credible, well-respected environmental health policy initiative to benefit people with disabilities, the association, and our public health and developmental disability partners.

§ Increase understanding about the critical need for environmental health policy reform among the developmental disability constituencies, health communities, education entities, and other relevant groups and organizations.

§ Raise visibility about the critical need for progressive environmental health legislation and effective regulation among key local, state and national policymakers and administrators, especially with regards to comprehensive chemical policy reform.

§ Advance the disability environmental health policy agenda through the use of empirical evidence and other supportive information, including reporting the experiences of nations that are applying the precautionary principle when using chemical products.

§ Work with partners in the broader Learning and Developmental Disability Community (LDDI) to accomplish like-minded goals and to engage in joint activities and projects, including developing and implementing a strategic communications plan in concert with communications consultants.

§ Support the work of the strategic communications / messaging firm in defining opportunities for policy change, clarifying where the power lies on the respective issues, and identifying specific decision-makers in Washington DC and in their home states for the purpose of advancing the environmental health policy agenda.

§ Develop, promote, adopt and implement environmental health position papers and policy statements within the association, the developmental disabilities networks, the LDDI coalition and the broader public health community.

§ Actively foster cohesiveness and support the network of state disability and health programs through policy meetings, webinars, conference calls, newsletters, electronic publications and other events.

§ Prepare reports, information bulletins, educational materials and Calls for Action for advisory groups and others engaged in relevant educational and policy activities.

§ Deliver specific messages to Capitol Hill that can positively impact health policies at the state and federal levels.

§ Work with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities and other consortia to advance progressive environmental health/disability policy.

§ Represent AAIDD at relevant national/state meetings and conferences including participating in the Annual Public Policy meeting of the developmental disabilities organizations to gain support for our public policy environmental health agenda.

§ Work with relevant groups and individuals to monitor and evaluate EHI project outcomes and to revise plans, strategies and activities, as necessary.

§ Work closely with the AAIDD Executive Director and the Program Director of the EHI.

§ Engage in other duties as required.

Competencies

Ability to think strategically and creatively, juggle multiple priorities, adjust to changing circumstances, organize time efficiently, remain attentive to details and identify resources for future initiatives.

Excellent written and oral communications skills including the ability to discuss complex concepts in a clear, effective manner for the general public.

Strong interpersonal skills including the ability to engage in productive relationships with members, partners, policy-makers, the media and others who can advance the AAIDD environmental health agenda.

Ability to establish credibility quickly and to develop and maintain effective working relationships with internal and external parties including providing consultation and technical assistance on disability, health and environmental issues.

Experience with the media and other communications strategies to deliver policy recommendations and/or scientific findings to policy makers and the public desired.

Strong systems skills including Microsoft Office products, database and online research applications.

Required Qualifications

A bachelor's degree required, advanced degree strongly preferred, and at least 4-5 years of progressively responsible experience in a disability, environment or health policy related field. Experience in working in federal or state government would be helpful. Working familiarity with the federal/state legislative processes, governmental structures and working knowledge of the Internet, computer programs and electronic informational sources are necessary. Grant writing, project management or technical assistance experience would also be desirable.

Impeccable ethics, judgment, and integrity consistent with the mission and values of a well-respected association representing the field of developmental disabilities are required.

This is a full time grant-funded position located in Washington, DC.

Salary and Benefits

Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience. The AAIDD offers a fringe benefit package that is comprehensive and competitive. This position also offers the ability to exercise creativity and initiative in the field and it has the potential to make a state/national and international impact.

Application Process

To apply, e-mail cover letter, resume and salary requirements to:

M. Doreen Croser
Executive Director AAIDD
501 Third Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001-2760
DCroser@AAIDD.org
FAX: 202-387-2193

No Phone Calls Please

The AAIDD is open to all qualified applicants regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious affiliation.

For questions, please contact:
Laura Abulafia, MHS
901 3rd Street, Apt. 304
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Position is open immediately and applications will be accepted until the position is filled. This position is supported by the John Merck Fund.